Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 30, line 29 and ending on page 31, line 34, and replace it with the following paragraph:

The Gax gene expression in normal blood vessels and in injured blood vessels was compared to determine whether Gax gene down-regulation occurs in response to injury-induced smooth muscle cell proliferation in vivo. Adult male Sprague-Dawley rats were subject to acute vessel injury by balloon de-endothelialization in the carotid arteries according to the methods of Majesky, M.W., et al. J. Cell. Biol. (1990) Vol. 111, pp. 2149-2158. The expression levels of Gax, that is, the mRNA levels, were assessed relative to that of glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase (hereinafter also referred to as "G3") by a quantitative polymerase chain reaction. At various times following balloon de-endothelialization the rats were sacrificed and the total RNA was isolated from the vascular smooth muscle tissues using the TRI reagent from Molecular Research Center, Inc. The cDNA was synthesized from the extracted RNA with MMLV reverse transcriptase from Bethesda Research Labs. Aliquots of the cDNA pools were subjected to polymerase chain reaction amplification with AmpliTaq DNA polymerase from Perkin-Elmer in the presence of .alpha.329-dCTP with the following cycle conditions: 94.degree. C. for 20 seconds, 55.degree. C. for 20 seconds, and 72.degree. C. for 20 seconds. The final cycle had an elongation step at 72.degree. C. for 5 minutes. The primers for the rat Gax amplification were: 5′-CCCGCGCGGCTTTTACATTAGGAGT-3′ and 5′-GCTGGCAAACATGCCCTCCTCATTG-3′. The primers for the rat G3 gene were 5′-TGATGGCATGGACTGTGGTCATGA-3′ and 5′-TGATGGCATGGACTGTGGTCATGA-3′ **SEQ ID. NOS 16-19, respectively**. The Gax cDNA was amplified for 30 cycles, and G3 was amplified for 25 cycles in the same reaction vessels. The amount of a radioactive label incorporated into the amplified cDNA and G3 fragments was determined by subjecting the fragments to electrophoresis on a 1% agarose gel, then excising the bands and liquid scintillation counting. Since the mRNA levels of glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase remain relatively constant following this procedure (see J. M. Miano et al. 1990, Am. J. Path. 137, 761-765), the ratio of radiolabel incorporation into the Gax-derived amplified bands and the G3-derived amplified bands corrects fro differences arising from the efficiency of RNA extraction from the different animals, and it provides a measure of Gax mRNA levels in the normal and injured vascular tissues. These ratios are plotted in Fig. 14.